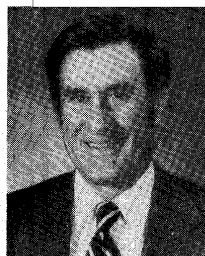


# chafee news



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## CHAFEE PLANS SENATE AMENDMENT TO MODIFIED INTELLIGENCE IDENTITIES BILL

WASHINGTON -- Senator John H. Chafee (R-R.I.) said today he will offer an amendment in the Senate to strengthen legislation approved today by the Senate Judiciary Committee to make it a crime to reveal the names of covert agents serving the United States abroad.

Chafee made the comment after the Committee voted, 9-8, to weaken the bill which he first introduced last year, and re-introduced in February.

"Certainly, I'm disappointed that the Committee voted to modify my bill," Chafee said, but added that "I intend to offer an amendment when the legislation comes to the full Senate to restore my original language."

At stake is a provision of the legislation dealing with penalties on those who make it a practice to reveal the names of CIA and other U.S. covert agents serving abroad.

Chafee's original language would require several elements of proof before a person could be convicted of a crime of "naming names." This standard of proof was made very strict to protect journalists and critics of U.S. intelligence operations, and would require, among other things, that the accused had "reason to believe" such activities would impair or impede the foreign intelligence activities of the United States.

The Committee voted today to modify the "reason to believe" standard to make it one of "intent" to impair foreign intelligence activities.

The change, Chafee said, makes the standard "much more subjective. The 'reason to believe' language is an objective standard: would a reasonable person have reason to believe that by such actions the intelligence activities of the United States would be impaired?"

Furthermore, Chafee said, the "intent" standard would "allow inquiries into the political beliefs of the accused. Past critical remarks the accused may have made about U.S. intelligence activities could weigh heavily against him. Under my language, those elements would be irrelevant."

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"I hope," Chafee continued, "the full Senate will see fit to restore the original language in order that this much-needed legislation can become law as soon as possible."

The House of Representatives has already passed legislation similar to Chafee's original bill.

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